



ARIZONA STATE SENATE
Fifty-Second Legislature, Second Regular Session

FACT SHEET FOR H.B. 2575

G&F; penalties; law enforcement; omnibus

Purpose

Makes various changes to statute with regard to the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD).

Background

The AGFD and the Arizona Game & Fish Commission (Commission) were established by the Legislature in 1929. The Commission is responsible for regulating the use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles and for developing policies regarding wildlife management, conservation and protection of wildlife. AGFD carries out and assists with policies set forth by the Commission, and ensures completion of statutory responsibilities.

Current statute stipulates that a person commits unlawful feeding of wildlife if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly feeds, attracts or otherwise entices wildlife into an area, unless the person is engaged in the lawful taking or holding of wildlife or is a public employee acting within the scope of authority for public safety or wildlife management purposes. Unlawful feeding of wildlife is classified as a petty offense (A.R.S. § 13-2927).

Under current law, all watercraft except sailboards are required to carry a United States Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each person on board the watercraft. A person is required to wear a buoyant belt or personal flotation device while being towed behind a watercraft. Children 12 years old or younger on board a watercraft are required to wear a personal flotation device at all times while the watercraft is underway (A.R.S. § 5-331).

There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the state General Fund associated with this legislation.

Provisions

Unlawful Feeding or Taking of Wildlife

1. Allows the Commission to impose a civil penalty for unlawful feeding of wildlife that results in the lethal removal of the wildlife as directed by AGFD.
2. Allows the Commission to deny a license for the taking of wildlife if the Commission has imposed a civil penalty for the unlawful taking or possession of wildlife until the person has made full payment of the civil penalty.

Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund

3. Broadens permitted usage of Wildlife Theft Prevention Fund monies to include investigations of the unlawful take or possession of wildlife.

Personal Flotation Devices

4. Specifies that a person being towed behind a watercraft is required to use a wearable personal flotation device, rather than a buoyant belt.
5. Modifies the requirement for a child 12 years old or younger on board a watercraft to require the child to wear a properly fitting wearable personal flotation device, rather than a type I, II or III personal flotation device.

Miscellaneous

6. Makes technical and conforming changes.
7. Becomes effective on the general effective date.

House Action

MAPS	2/4/16	W/D	
EENR	2/8/16	DP	7-0-0-2
3 rd Read	2/18/16		46-11-3-0

Prepared by Senate Research
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KN/lr